

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 14, 2013

Elected Officials Present: **Councilmember Bloom (Committee Chair)**
 Councilmember Peterson (Committee Member)
 Mayor Earling
 Council President Petso (Presenter)

City Staff Present: **Chief of Police Al Compaan**
 Fire Marshal John Westfall
 City Attorney Jeff Taraday

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

A. Proposed changes to the Economic Development Commission Ordinance.

Council President Petso presented ordinance language to the Committee requesting: (1) Allow for up to two city council members to be appointed as Economic Development Commission liaisons to be appointed by the Council President; and (2) Each commissioner serves at the pleasure of the applicable appointing official, who may remove and replace his or her appointee(s) at any time without cause.

Councilmember Peterson expressed concern over the legal implications and whether the deliberation would be required in a public forum, and was also concerned where one appointee might be operating from a position contrary to the positions that the appointing council member desires. City Attorney Jeff Taraday suggested most appointment processes and desired actions related to volunteer appointments by council members could be written into the ordinance.

Hypothetical situations were discussed. Councilmember Bloom preferred the oversight by an entity such as an Ethics Board that could address the actions of all boards and commissions and provide recommendations to the City Council for action when activity fell short of criminal behavior. Councilmember Peterson suggested the formation of an Ethics Board would be an additional step ultimately arriving at the end with Council action that would apply by the processes established in this ordinance language. There currently is no Ethics Board established.

Edits were made to allow one or two positions in number 1 above. Council President Petso withdrew number 2 above due to lack of consensus at committee.

Council President Petso will bring the ordinance to the City Council for discussion.

B. 2012 Fire Code Update.

Fire Marshal Westfall discussed the upcoming code cycle changes to the Fire and Marina Codes. The most significant change will be that the Building and Fire Departments will no longer maintain a current Board of Appeals, described by the codes. This is an onerous task for the Building Department as volunteer experts in specific fields must be maintained for when Building or Fire determinations are questioned by code applicants. The most recent Board of Appeals activity occurred in 2002. This is not a frequent event and the City currently utilizes an established Hearing Examiner on an ongoing basis for land use issues. A Hearing Examiner is felt to be a good arbiter also for construction issues. The Committee approved the Fire Code update moving forward to public hearing on June 4, or when best scheduled by Council President. The 2013 Fire Code will be in effect in Washington State by July 1.

C. Annual renewal of Snohomish Regional Drug & Gang Task Force Interlocal Agreement (2013-2014).

Chief Compaan presented information regarding this Interlocal Agreement (ILA). The cost for the 2013-2014 fiscal year will be \$10,237, half of which is already budgeted in the 2013 approved Police Department budget, with the balance to be included in the 2014 Police Department budget.

The Committee approved placing this agreement on the Consent Agenda.

D. Interlocal Agreement – North Sound Metro SWAT.

Chief Compaan presented information regarding this ILA. The present SWAT ILA was approved by Council in December 2011. The new ILA adds the cities of Mill Creek and Kirkland, plus makes two minor language changes pertaining to team structure/operations.

The Committee approved placing this agreement on the Consent Agenda.

E. 2013 COPS Hiring Program Grant Solicitation.

Mayor Earling and Chief Compaan presented information regarding this grant opportunity – presented this evening to both Public Safety-Personnel and Finance Committees. The proposal is to partner with Edmonds School District (ESD) to hire one police officer under this grant to serve as School Resource Officer. If Edmonds is approved for this grant, an Interlocal Agreement would be required with ESD. The term of the grant is four years. Years one through three are 75% funded (salary and benefits) by the grant, and ESD has indicated willingness to pick-up the remaining 25% for each of the three years. Year four must be 100% locally funded, and ESD has indicated willingness to pick-up 50%, and the city would be obligated to the other 50%. During the term of the grant, the city would be required to maintain its budgeted complement of police officers (51 at present; 52 if approved for COPS grant funding). The application deadline is May 22. No official action is required by City Council at this juncture, other than a consensus that the Police Department move forward with submitting an application.

The Public Safety-Personnel Committee was of the consensus to submit the application.

F. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.